

### **REMARKS**

The Applicant has reviewed the Examiner's Office Action, and has added further definition in the claims to more accurately describe the structural components of the rack to safely display bottles.

Initially, the drawings have been amended, to show where the bottles locate upon the lateral shelves, or even upon the bottom shelf, and can be held in position by means of the various pins 14, that slide through the various pattern of holes provided through the shelves, and into the neck of each bottle, in order to hold it in position, and to prevent its unauthorized removal, from the display shelf.

It is believed that with the amended drawings, and the way the claims have now been amended, that the usage of this particular Bottle Display Safe should be reasonably clear.

With respect to the manner in which the Bottle Display Safe is assembled, it can be easily seen that each side wall has a series of apertures of slots 6 provided therethrough. And, the tab provided at the end of the bottom shelf 4, and in end of the lateral shelves 2, such tabs as shown at 9, as in FIG. 3, will extend through the said slots, and allow a tapered pin to insert through the apertures or slots 10, to engage the components of the display safe, or rack, when it is assembled for usage.

Thus, the collector of antique bottles, when he attends a show, to exhibit his collection, can readily carry the rack dismantled, and stacked in a compact unit, into the exhibition hall, readily assemble it in place, without requiring the use of any hammer or nails, or screws, and the rack can be assembled by simply inserting the shelving into the side walls, engage the tapered pins, and once this is done, the rack is ready for display of the bottles. This assembly feature is what is described at the bottom of page 9, and the upper part of page 10, in the specification.

Then, the collector can place the bottles upon the shelving, align each bottle with one of the apertures 13, pressure fit the pin downwardly, so it extends

into the neck of the bottle, as now shown in FIG. 1, to engage them in position, so that the bottles cannot be tilted aside and removed. The pin prevents the bottles from being moved sideways, to any extent, and therefore the bottom of the bottles will always engage the shelf therebelow, if one should try to slide the bottle off of its pin, and remove it for unauthorized purposes.

The Examiner has cited a variety of prior art patents, generally in an effort to reject the claims of this application under Sec. 103.

The patent to Stewart, does show the assembly of a camp supply unit, which is collapsible, whereby the shelving extends through slots, for accommodating clothespins, when the unit is assembled. This is related to Applicant's invention, but it does not suggest directly towards what Applicant has invented, upon an overall review of the subject invention.

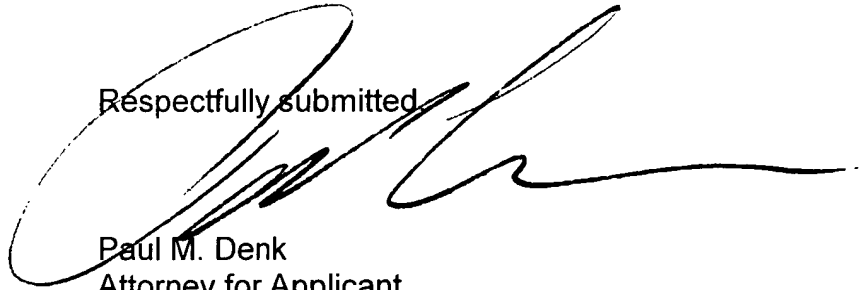
Furthermore, the Examiner cites the Vacanti reference, for showing rods 32, which are upright, and extend upwardly from a shelf, for use for stacking bowling pins when being dried after lacquering. This is directly opposite from what Applicant has devised. And, Applicant's newly added claim 9 defines exactly how his pins are locatable, pressure fitted, to slide down into the neck of bottles, which is just not suggested in any manner by the Vacanti reference.

Finally, the Examiner cites Taylor for showing bottom braces. These types of bottom braces, as shown in Taylor, appear to cooperate with the downwardly extending hook portions 106, that cooperate with similar structure for each member 102, when they are inserted into and through the slots 105, for the bottom planer surface 101. This is far more complex than what Applicant has devised for his bracing 5, that secures with the bottom of each of his end walls, and does not require involvement in extending through any type of a slot, nor cooperating with legs of the side walls, for their securement. Hence, it is believed that neither Taylor nor Vacanti suggest towards Applicant's invention, that would lead one to modify Stewart to come up with a bottle display, instead of a collapsible camp supply unit. See the case *In re Geiger*, 815 F.2d 686 (Fed. Cir. 1987). *Geiger* states that obviousness cannot be established by combining

teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive that supports the combination in the direction of the applicant's invention in the first instance. It is believed that such obviousness is just not present in the collection of prior art as applied by the Examiner. In fact, the prior art just does not show any type of a slide pin that can slide downwardly, through a shelf, for holding bottles in place, in the first instance.

The Examiner's further review of the claims of this application would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Paul M. Denk, is written over the typed name and address.

Paul M. Denk  
Attorney for Applicant  
Pat. Off. Reg. No. 22,598  
763 South New Ballas Road, Ste. 170  
St. Louis, Missouri 63141  
(314) 872-8136

PMD/lms